



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

P.O. Box 41131 • Olympia, Washington 98501-6504 • (360) 725-8840
FAX (360) 586-7274

December 14, 2010

Dear Friends and Family of McNeil Island Residents,

As I am sure you know the Department of Corrections, in response to the state budget crisis, is in the position where we must close McNeil Island Corrections Center. This was not an easy decision, but the reality is that closing McNeil Island will save \$6.3 million each year. We plan to close McNeil Island by April 1, 2011.

We value the important role that families and friends have in supporting loved ones who are incarcerated, and we realize that closing this facility causes a hardship for many of you. This is also a hardship for many of our staff, who are also significantly impacted.

When determining where people will be transferred, we are giving *first priority* to fathers who have minor children who visit, particularly fathers of younger children. Our *second priority* is to spouses who visit and to parents who are visiting their young children ages 18 to 23. The *third priority* is given based on frequency of visits and the proximity of visitors to the proposed facility (based on the visitors address).

Additional considerations include the following:

- Offenders with six months or less to serve will be transferred to Washington Corrections Center in Shelton for the remainder of their sentences.
- Offenders with a year or more to serve will likely be transferred to Stafford Creek Corrections Center in Aberdeen.
- Offenders who are within a year of completing their sentence who have frequent visits will be transferred to minimum-security units at Larch Corrections Center, Monroe Correctional Complex, Cedar Creek or Olympic Corrections Center.
- Offenders who have been approved for Work Release placement will transfer when space is available.
- Only those offenders who have few or no visits will be transferred to prisons in Eastern Washington.
- We will also consider offenders' medical needs and program opportunities.

Family and Friends of McNeil Island Residents
December 14, 2010
Page Two

Because of the need to quickly move men to other facilities, men who are currently scheduled for Extended Family Visits (EFVs) may not be able to participate on their next scheduled date. If EFVs must be cancelled, a refund will be issued. Please be advised that per DOC 590.100, the Extended Family Visiting policy, EFVs will continue at the receiving facility barring the addition of any new charges, violations or infractions that would prohibit participation.

I will keep you informed throughout the closure process. If you have any questions, please contact the Family Services Unit at 360.725.8816.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "EX Wright", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Earl X. Wright, Deputy Director
Prisons Command B

cc: Eldon Vail, Secretary
Bernard Warner, Prisons Director
Richard Morgan, Acting Superintendent MICC